

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant has received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed October 17, 2003, setting a three month shortened statutory period for response ending January 17, 2003. With the above amendments, claims 1-28, 30 and 32 remain pending. Claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

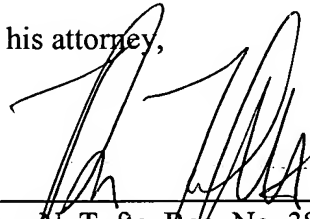
The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interviews of December 8, 2003 and December 15, 2003. During the interviews, the undersigned agreed to include the limitations of claim 31 into claim 28. With this amendment, the Examiner indicated that all claims would likely be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims 1-28, 30 and 32 are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a notice of allowance in due course is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his attorney,



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